

Writing & Advocacy

Have you ever seen the movie, **Pay It Forward**? (Check out video clips [here](#)¹ and [here](#)²)

Even if you haven't yet, the idea is this: someone who receives a good deed repays the kindness to others instead of to the original person who gave this someone a good deed—so, rather than to “pay back”, you “pay forward”.

By passing the good deed to new people, the good deed spreads wider and faster (see diagram below).

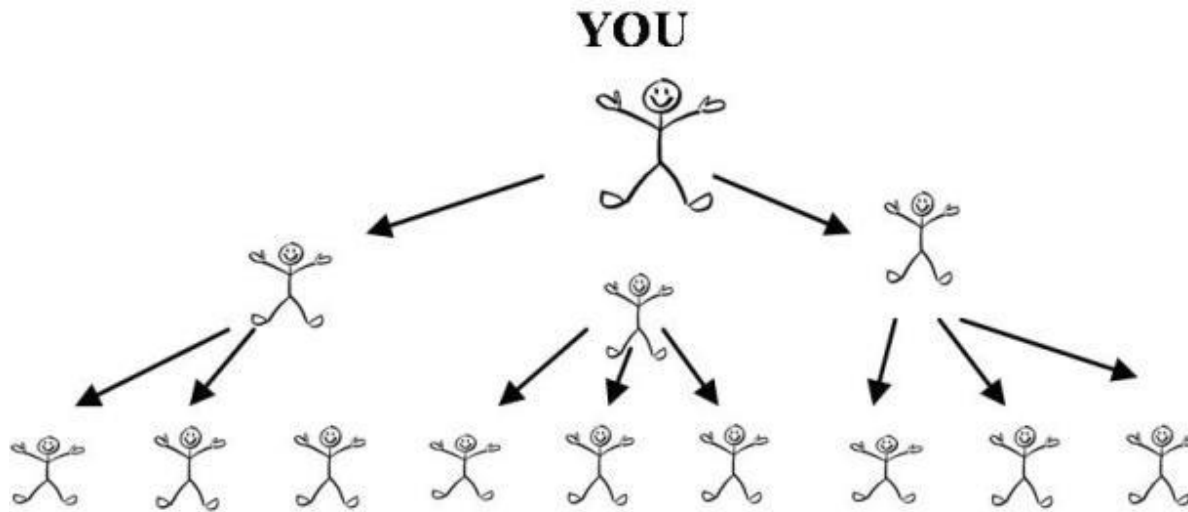


Diagram. Source³

We see **Eco Ambassadors** in the same way.

The activism and advocacy to save the environment to quite literally protect and preserve our world can happen by spreading the good deeds and words to everyone around us, just like “paying forward” actions of kindness.

Here are some activity ideas to spread the message.

Images in the Guide were taken & created from Canva.com
For questions on Activity Guide, please contact hshin@ei.columbia.edu

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxB43PxasGA>

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZTm-iYUpm4>

³ <https://theescapeartist.me/2018/08/06/your-part-in-the-revolution-is-to-pay-it-forward/>

PAY IT FORWARD: LETTER TO A NEIGHBOR

Giving thanks during Thanksgiving

MATERIALS



- Paper (recycled paper or back of used paper) & pen
- Email
- Courage to reach out to your neighbor and pay it forward!

STEPS

1. Please read the “Writing & Advocacy” 1-page & watch the Pay It Forward movie clips (less than [3 minutes](#) & [5 minutes](#) respectively)
2. Take a few moments to reflect and think of 3 things you are grateful for related to nature, your environment, including what you are grateful for in your neighbors who are in your immediate environment.
3. Think of what you can “pay forward” in sharing with your neighbor.
4. On a piece of paper, write a letter of appreciation to your neighbor/friend and share:
 - *Think about some of the common environmental things you share with your neighbors and friends in your neighborhood. For example, trees, parks, a small river or lake and others.*
 - *Write down 1-2 things and be thankful that you share such beautiful gifts from nature.*
 - *Reflect and write your message about what you can do to improve or preserve natures gifts to your environment.*
 - Suggest to your neighbor/friend to “pay forward” to others in their lives with an environment message



Dear Neighbor,

This Thanksgiving, I am grateful for our community and the environment.

I love the Wyoming School Stayton field that we share with our community. I love the swings that the field has. When I get tired of reading, I like to do monkey bars. I am very good at it! I hope that we can all help to keep Stayton field free from plastic.

This thanksgiving, I want to appreciate natures blessings. Please carry on this chain and send your appreciation letter to your friend, thanking natures beauty that we all share together.

Happy thanksgiving!

Share what you suggested to your neighbor at www.edfordsd.org !